

Testimony Against Senate Bill 88

Submitted by: Ling Wang

Testifying as Opponent

May 23, 2025

- Chair Roegner, Vice-Chair Gavarone, Ranking Member Blackshear, and members of the Senate General Government Committee,
- Thank you for the opportunity to testify against Senate Bill 88. I am Ling Wang, a Columbus resident and currently a data scientist at Amazon. Before joining Amazon, I worked at Nationwide Children's Hospital, supporting healthcare programs for children on Medicaid across Ohio.
- I came to the United States in 2009 to pursue higher education and earned my Ph.D. in Public Health from The Ohio State University. With a deep-rooted background in public health, I have always understood the importance of supporting vulnerable and underserved populations. That principle has guided both my career and my personal life. Over the years, I've volunteered with organizations like soup kitchens and food banks to help those in need. Ironically, now my own family and I find ourselves as the ones needing help and protection—simply because of where we come from.
- Senate Bill 88, also known as the Ohio Property Protection Act, prohibits certain foreign individuals, businesses, and entities from acquiring real property within 25 miles of critical infrastructure or military bases. It requires divestment of existing property ownership within two years and establishes a registry of "foreign adversaries" as defined by the U.S. government. Though the bill is positioned as a national security measure, I oppose it for the following two reasons:
 - 1. **The bill unfairly targets people like me who have lived, studied, worked, and contributed to Ohio for decades:** While the bill claims to be about security, in practice it casts a wide and imprecise net. It risks categorically labeling people based solely on their country of origin, with no regard for their individual lives, contributions, or legal status. I am a U.S. taxpayer, a Ph.D. graduate from a leading Ohio university, and a public health professional who has worked to improve outcomes for Ohio's most vulnerable children. Yet under this bill, I am viewed as a potential threat simply because of where I was born. That is not only discriminatory but dehumanizing.
 - 2. **It creates fear and instability for law-abiding families:** My family legally purchased our home near Columbus years ago. We built our lives here. If this bill passes and our property falls within the defined "protected area," we would be forced

to divest it—even though we have done nothing wrong. This kind of forced divestment introduces tremendous instability into the lives of people who are fully invested in Ohio's future. It sends the message that no matter how hard we work, contribute, or belong, we will always be outsiders in the eyes of the law.

☐ I urge you to consider the real human impact of this legislation. National security is important, but broad-brush laws that penalize peaceful, productive residents are not the answer. I respectfully ask you to vote **NO** on S.B. 88. Thank you again for your time and consideration.

☐ Sincerely,

☐ Ling Wang